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Native

State of the Nation

The Grand Chief's thoughts on 2013
and wishes for 2014

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A time for resolutions

by Jeremy East

With 2013 a fading memory and a brisk and shivering start to 2014, it's now time to stop putting off the annual task of respecting our New Year's resolutions.

Realistically, it's hard to find fault with any tradition that is based around self-improvement, especially one that has been part of human culture in some form or another for thousands of years.

The earliest records of the practice can be traced to the ancient Babylonians, who rang in every New Year by publicly reaffirming loyalty to their leaders and renewing vows of faith to their gods. Today, religious resolutions remain popular. Thankfully, however, we don't have to endure the horror of celebrating the first day of January with vows of loyalty to Mr. Harper, Mr. Ford, or any other political leaders who made us regret the past year.

Today's most popular resolutions include losing weight, quitting smoking or drinking, finding a new career, going back to school and managing debt. It's estimated that the infectious optimism of starting over in a new year compels upwards of 40% of adults to make resolutions. However, a recent study found that a staggering 92% of those who undertake resolutions fail to achieve them to their satisfaction.

Rest assured that by the time this reaches your hands, hordes of weight-loss hopefuls will already be approaching the end of their measly two-week exercise commitment; temporary spikes in demand for Nicorette gum will be quickly ebbing; and burger joints will be welcoming back junk-food junkies jonesing for a fix of grease and sodium.

If you've taken a leap this New Year and made a resolution, it may seem as if

the odds of success are stacked against you. The best way to make any lifestyle change a reality is to be accountable and talk openly about the changes you want to make. We live in an age in which sharing is encouraged through social media. So let people know about the self-improvements you hope to make. Studies show that those who are explicit about their resolutions are 10 times more likely to achieve them than those who aren't.

In the spirit of being vocal about resolutions, we've decided to make some recommendations for those we feel need them the most:

Stephen Harper:

Months of high-profile public scandal in the Senate couldn't convince him to resolve much in the Upper House, so we're just going to recommend a new haircut. In collaboration with the release of his new book on the history of hockey, why not make it a mullet?

Rob Ford:

He's already resolved to win Toronto's next election, and somehow the victory seems more feasible than his weight-loss resolutions of past years. We recommend another weight-loss attempt instead, but look forward to ordering our "Plenty to eat at home" campaign t-shirts.

Pauline Marois:

Resolve to make concerns for the values in her secularism charter secondary to concerns for the values in the province's chequebook. Even the bluest of pantsuits won't convince people to feel at ease about the province's economic sinkhole.

Contents

editorial

A time for resolutions 3

rez notes

2013- the year
of embarrassments 4

news

Stop and Frisk 5

Social housing
in Val d'Or? 7

features

The state of our nation 10

Native chef
Andrew George 17

Batshaw bans Cree? 19

Grievous Angels
put politics to music 21

Side by side 23

UTNS

Happy New Year... let's
hope it's going to be a
really good 33

photo by:
Neil Diamond

A year of embarrassments

by Sonny Orr



As many people do, I reflect on the past year with leery eyes and see much turmoil and awful events that didn't merit my attention. But, there were several embarrassing moments that will forever remain etched in a history that you would prefer to forget.

Take, for example, the transportation industry. Trains, once just noisy background sounds, endless rails, endless loads and railways cars, a relic of the past but a transportation staple, seemed to have a record year for derailments, which caught my attention. Train wrecks galore, people died, environments were destroyed, reputations were tarnished and the ones responsible claimed they were the victims.

Meanwhile, pipelines projects were opposed. Now, when was the last time you got hit by an out-of-control pipeline? I only hear about the occasional leak and some sabotage that actually hurt more than a few ducks and ponds. Just a perspective I guess.

Up north, Innu and Naskapi had a train breakdown in severe cold winter conditions in the middle of nowhere, making me wonder if cheap affordable means to get around may be around for a while yet. Bombardier should build a nice system for the Innu – just a thought.

Nelson Mandela, who captivated the world with his perspective on equality and purged South Africa of apartheid, teetered on the brink of life and death for some time before passing on to a better universe, leaving a legacy of hope and courage. Dignitaries from around the world paid respect, including President Obama, who delivered one heck of a goodbye from the good old USA. Unfortunately, the world's non-hearing population were treated to a sign-load of gibberish from a signing fraud hired by the local institute to pass on Obama's eulogy to the world at a crucial historical moment.

Apparently, the interpreter, a long-time clinically declared schizophrenic, experienced a hallucinogenic seizure and witnessed angels descending from the heavens, but couldn't blurt it out in any language, for fear of all the heavily armed guards surrounding Obama. Days later, another blunder, this time in a large sign in India paying tribute to Mandela, featured the picture of actor Morgan Freeman alongside images of Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King.

Meanwhile, in our part of the hemisphere, extreme cold weather wreaked havoc and tore asunder the Greater Toronto Area, which had suffered many months of hot-air blasts from its mayor Rob Ford, making it most probably the worst year for losers south of 50. I thought that Ford did rather well, considering the Conservative Senate scandal, where all personally picked by the prime minister himself, were cooked in their own ego basted scandals. Someone better get Harper a better PR team, or perhaps a slew of angels descending down in silence could have at least diverted the attention from scandal to the ridiculous but true doings of the world of politics.

Closer to home, the Idle No More movement, the Nishiyuu Walkers, the hunger strike of Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence and the harvesting of an entire pod of beluga by polar bears and Inuit hunters, comes to mind as memorable. Oh yeah, the Cruikshank sighting of a Bigfoot in Akulivik, raised some eyebrows, but hey, I believed her. Believing in Bigfoot is like buying stock in Apple back in the 1980s, it was cool but who knew it would grow into an i-Universe, making a single share worth a lot in two decades. Bigfoot is like that – it just might be real and big enough to become the next icon for the 21st century. Bye 2013, it was good knowing you.

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Canada

Stop and frisk

Are traffic stops on the James Bay Highway racially motivated?

by Jesse Staniforth

It's not uncommon to see people driving fast on the James Bay Highway, so neither is it surprising to see the police out in force hunting speeders. However, a rash of new public complaints about the Sûreté du Québec (SQ) suggests that the police might be doing more than just pulling people over for driving unsafely.

Facebook recently lit up with complaints about SQ stops between Amos and Matagami. In response to requests for such stories, the *Nation* received a number of accounts of what drivers considered unfair or unreasonable stops, ranging from the SQ stopping those who were simply overtaking slower cars to making apparently random stops.

Shirley Blackned reported being stopped "for a random check" north of Matagami with her three-year-old grandson in his booster seat. She said that because her grandson had pushed his seatbelt from his shoulder down to his waist, she was given a ticket for travelling with a minor wearing a seatbelt improperly.

Meanwhile, Ruth Stewart of Chisasibi reported that she was stopped while driving the speed limit, but that SQ officers told her that they'd stopped her because "our truck was old."

Eastmain's Steven Tremblay also says he was pulled over without apparent reason and asked to produce his license, registration and insurance. "Then the officer began questioning my wife, who doesn't drive, why she had no permit to drive. He continually asked her to repeat her answers."

Chisasibi's Ricky Angatookaluk was stopped while overtaking a car driving 20 km/h below the speed limit. Angatookaluk said he tried to open the door to his car, but the SQ officer "just

"Then the officer began questioning my wife, who doesn't drive, why SHE had no permit to drive. He continually asked her to repeat her answers."



turned red and un-click[ed] his gun holster like he was ready to grab his gun. [I] felt that he stopped me because my truck was kinda rez and that I looked Indian."

An anonymous driver from a coastal community contacted the *Nation* to say that, on two occasions, he or his wife was stopped while driving below the speed limit and given speeding tickets for driving 130 km/h and 140km/h. "I don't know if the radar was malfunctioning or something," said the driver. "One of my brothers had the same experience."

The anonymous driver also reported being stopped while driving 80 km/h. Like many other drivers reporting unusual traffic stops by the Sureté du Québec, he was driving a pickup truck with a load of goods from the

south lashed down in the bed with ropes. He thinks this identified him as a Cree travelling home. After being pulled over, the driver waited while the police inspected the cargo in the back of his truck.

"My wife opened her window and I asked [the SQ officer] why he stopped us. He said, 'We didn't stop you for speeding. Your wife wasn't wearing a seatbelt.' It was six in the evening – how could he tell? And my wife was wearing a belt. I think they were trying to find a reason to give us a ticket."

More surprisingly, the anonymous driver reported that the police then searched the vehicle without giving any reason for doing so.

"We had tubes of wrapping paper in a garbage bag under the seat. They pulled it out and were looking at it. We

couldn't say anything: the law is on their side."

Others argue that the stops have nothing to do with race.

"Almost everyone is [stopped], I think," said Lorna Spencer. "But it's more of a formality as soon as they realize we are not caribou hunters from the south. They have to be inspected and made sure they have stored the firearms properly."

Daniel Caron added that he didn't believe the SQ stops were profiling. "As a white person, I got stopped for no reason. They checked my firearm license and my car for any modifications, and past the 15 they will stop random people to check if they are using winter tires."

Gilles Corriveau, Deputy Director for the SQ's Abitibi office, said that section 6.36 of the Quebec Highway Safety Code (QHSC) gives police the right to stop any driver at any time to make certain that his license, registration and insurance are valid, and that the driver is in an acceptable state to

drive safely. As well, the state of the vehicle falls under the QHSC.

"The vehicle falls under the power of the Highway Safety Code," Corriveau said. "We can verify the state of the vehicle: the lights, the breaking system. We can even verify whether the driver has an emergency route, or whether the hand brake is working. Many little things like that."

Importantly, Corriveau added that officers can stop trucks carrying loads of cargo to verify that the netting used to hold the loads into truck beds is "made of the right material, properly attached, and tight enough."

"However," Corriveau added, "this does not give me the right to search the glove compartment or your luggage, unless I have a real reason to do that." And he added that officers should inform drivers of the reasons why they are being stopped.

Corriveau said he does not believe that the controversial stops have been in any way racially motivated.

"I can't speak for all police officers, but for my group I can tell you that Aboriginals are a part of our lives," he said. "There are many Aboriginal reserves – here in Amos, and around Val d'Or. There are Crees who come down here to do their shopping. They're part of the population. Maybe there are some who feel that they're being looked at, and feel that they're victims of racism. But in reality, a police officer can't investigate someone because of his race, but rather because of the examples that I gave above."

Nonetheless, Corriveau says he wants the public to be able to trust the SQ.

"If a police officer does not answer adequately or didn't behave adequately [during a traffic stop] according to our directives and ethics policy, than you can make a complaint against him. You can go to the superior of that officer. We want to be professional at all times, and to always act in that manner."

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A tale of two projects

Val d'Or may build social housing units, but who will benefit?

by Amy German

Val d'Or's infamous low vacancy rate, currently less than 0.1%, is a main reason for the housing crisis in the "City of Gold."

That's why the Val d'Or Native Friendship Centre is impatiently awaiting city council's green light for an innovative and "shovel ready" project featuring a 24-unit social environment geared specifically for the Aboriginal community.

According to Cloutier, over 100 Native families in Val d'Or are on a list to acquire social housing that is unavailable.

Known as the Kijaté Project (Anishnabe for full of sun), the Val d'Or Friendship Centre is partnering with the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ) to create and find funding for this building project that could put roofs over the heads of needy Native families. What is missing from this project however is a requirement that 25% of the costs to be covered by the municipality of Val d'Or, which would translate to donation of municipal land for the project as well as a tax exemption.

While the previous city administration rejected the project, Pierre Corbeil's election as Val d'Or's new mayor in November gave hope that the project may be able to finally get off the ground.

And with this in mind, Cloutier was able to get an audience with Corbeil and other members of his council on December 6 and pitch the Kijaté Project once more.

According to Cloutier, the pitch went well as she and Corbeil discussed whether it would be possible to adapt the project into a larger initiative that the city is looking to create.

Corbeil said that currently Val d'Or is looking at various projects to



address the housing shortage as it is an issue that affects everyone in the city.

"We have some projects from our own organizations, like the Office municipal d'habitation (OMH), that are working on getting three 18-unit buildings for a total of 54 units. This project is on the table right now, but they do not have any reservation to build these buildings with the SHQ," said Corbeil.

The OMH project would be accommodations for anyone in Val d'Or who meets the requirements for social housing.

While there are three different projects in front of the city, Corbeil said that the two in the lead are the OMH project and Kijaté. However, in the eyes of the city, neither is that "shovel ready" because of the lack of infrastructure needed to develop a new piece of land. Any new building project would require the creation of new streets, sewage and access to water, all of which would have to be first developed into the city's next budget.

Corbeil said he wants to manage these projects together for the time being; these are projects that are still being discussed by the city administration before making a decision when it comes to which project will actually come to fruition. While no decision has been made yet, reexamining them and making such decisions is on the agenda for the New Year.

With crossed fingers, Cloutier is hopeful that Kijaté may see the light of day yet recognizes the difficulty when it comes to getting the go-ahead for Native-specific projects due to an issue of perception.

"We are looking at how to overcome this kind of a racial barrier and how to encourage dialogue at a political level when it comes to supporting this project. We want to support the Native community. We know what the problems are the community faces, so we want to be proactive and find solutions," said Cloutier.

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Update on Floyd Visitor's condition

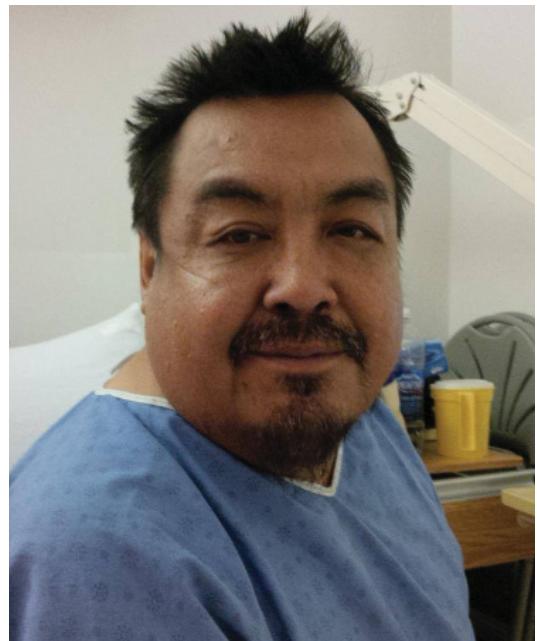
The heartwarming story of Floyd Visitor marrying off his daughter from a hospital bed via a FaceTime connection touched many when it was published in the November 15 edition of the Nation. At the time, as he received treatment for endocarditis and a pneumonia infection in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, Visitor's fate remained uncertain.

Fortunately, Visitor's health steadily improved and he was discharged November 29, returning home to his family in Wemindji by car as he was unable to fly. His arrival home marked the first time he met his new granddaughter, Peighton.

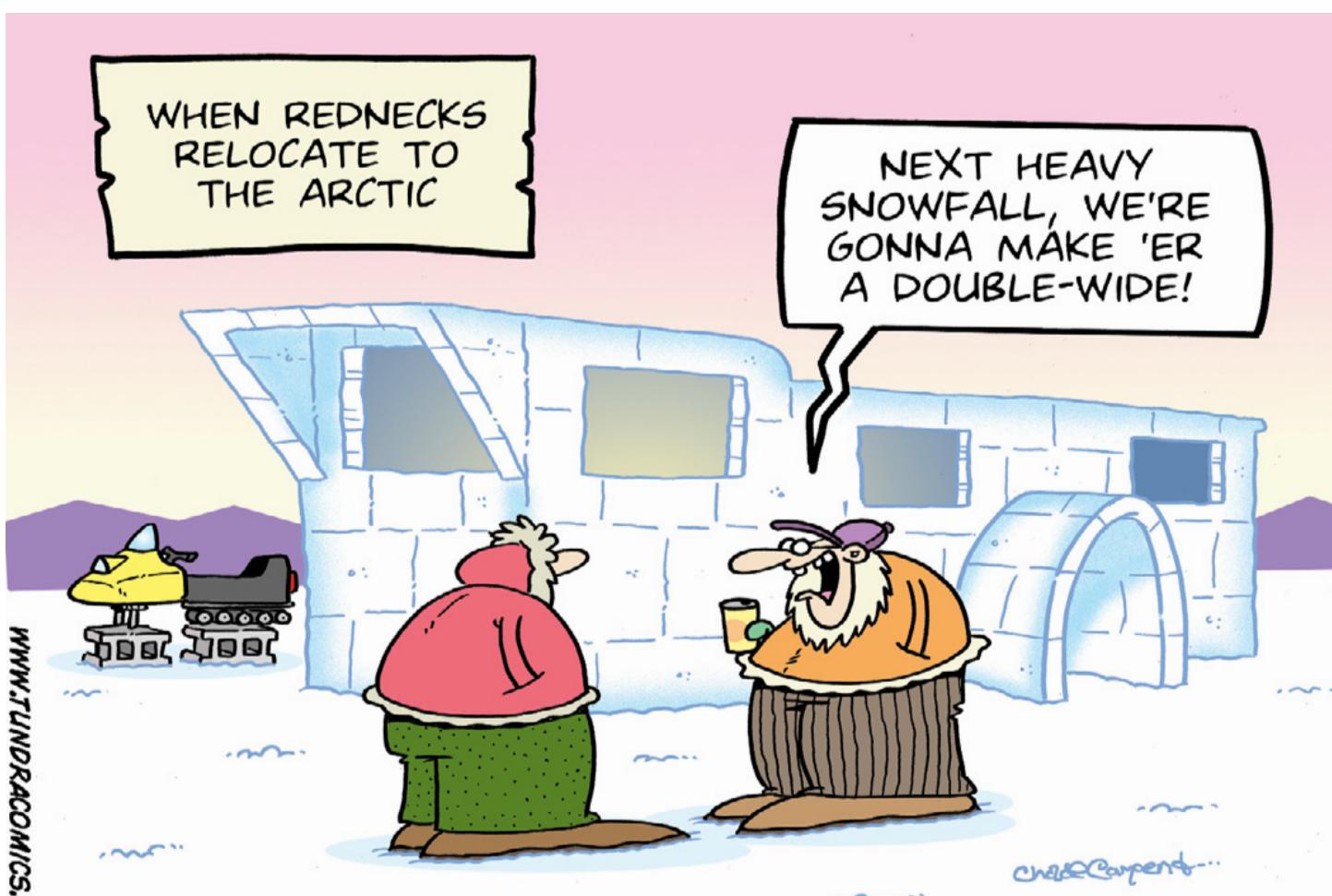
"I was in shock the first time I saw him in the ICU," said Visitor's wife, Theresa Danyluk. "It took a while to process how he looked because there he was with tubes coming out of him in order to remove all of the secretions."

She said her husband found solace through prayer. "He called upon the spirits of his father and grandfather to help him. And as soon as he finished praying he felt their presence with him at the ICU."

At the moment, Visitor is readjusting to life at home and is still recovering. The family has been through a lot of ups and downs in the recent months with a wedding, a birth and a recovery, but with the help of family and friends, they have pulled through.



Floyd Visitor



"I am extremely proud of our Nishiiyu Walkers. They achieved a goal that they set for themselves and they did it the Cree way – with determination, with focus, and holding dear the core values of our culture which are the values of sharing, caring and respect."



The state of our nation

The Grand Chief's thoughts on 2013 and wishes for 2014

by Amy German

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come has a unique perspective on his fellow Eeyouch and the ever-evolving communities they live in.

Coon Come has watched the people of Eeyou Istchee touch the lives of many over the past year, through social movements like the Journey of Nishiyuu and through the major power-plays that the Crees have made via numerous business deals and agreements.

Like any other individual, 2013 was a year for love and loss, for triumphs and tribulations, moments of joy and sorrow and, of course, laying down tracks for the road ahead. Here are the Grand Chief's thoughts on the Cree Nation's best moments of the past year, their prospects for the future and also, naturally, on hockey.

The Nation: What were your favourite moments of 2013 and why?

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come: Over this past year I cannot tell you how proud I was of our young Nishiyuu Walkers, who decided on their own to show their solidarity with the Idle No More Movement and with the hunger strike of Chief Theresa Spence by walking from Whapmagoostui to Ottawa. They sent a clear and a positive message not only to Aboriginal peoples across the country but to non-Aboriginal peoples as well about the importance of dedication and commitment to a cause. They were a wonderful reminder to us of the things that are really important. It was a personal honour for me to meet them at different points of their journey

and to welcome them when they reached Ottawa.

We took an important step forward in taking advantage of the opportunities before our Nation, to hold an important conference last March in Ottawa directed at our post-secondary students. We know that our future ability to become the major economic and political force in northern Quebec will depend on the success of our youth in developing the skills, the knowledge and the training to administer, to govern and to develop economically the resources within Eeyou Istchee. By all accounts, this Capacity-Building Roundtable was a great success. Not only did our students learn about the history of our Cree Nation over the past 40 years, they began to understand what their own role will be in furthering

the vision of building the Cree Nation and becoming "masters of our own destiny". This event was inspiring for everyone who attended.

I have to say that I was deeply touched when the people of Eeyou Istchee decided to put their trust in my leadership and elected me to continue moving our Nation in the direction we have been going for several years. We have clearly made important gains in our efforts to build the Cree Nation and that will continue to be our focus.

I have also been moved by the many invitations I receive to participate in local community events. Participating in these events gives me great personal satisfaction and provides me with the grounding and the rootedness I need to be an effective leader.

TN: What were some of your hardest moments as Eeyou Istchee's leader?

GC: Although we have continued to achieve successes and to make progress in a number of important areas, as a leader, I am always disheartened and saddened when I see areas where we still need to do a great deal more. In particular, when I hear about some of the social problems that continue to be present in our communities, I am reminded about the issues where we need to place more emphasis on and make more effort in dealing with. It is hard for me, personally as a leader, when I hear about youth suicides. I know that we cannot achieve great things as a young Indigenous Nation unless we have healthy individuals and healthy communities. Our visions and our dreams related to the building of a dynamic Cree Nation will only be possible if we do that building on a solid foundation – a solid foundation of healthy, dedicated and committed individuals.

TN: Who has had the biggest impact on you and why?

GC: I have been blessed to have met many people along this journey of life. It goes without saying that my mom and dad had the greatest influence on my life both spiritually and culturally. They encouraged me to learn the white man's books and to learn them well. My dad taught me to walk on the land and to learn the behaviour of the animals for they are the greatest indicators on the health of the land. Actually my dad said he would deprogram me after I learned the ways of the newcomers. This he has done.

"Actually my dad said he would deprogram me after I learned the ways of the newcomers. This he has done."

Politically, it was Chief Smally Petawabano from Mistissini who taught me about leadership, about governments, about who we are and never to forget where we came from and to understand that we are, the people of the land.

A man of my position would never have been able to do what I do without the full support of my wife Maryann and my children. While I am away she has kept the fire burning at home. She too has great insight in the direction of Cree Nation building and often shares with me her views, which I take into consideration.

Lastly, I must mention my grandfather who was 114 years old when he passed away. His father was 115 years old and my grandfather's grandfather was 135 years when he died. I come from a line of very good genes so I plan to be around for a while.

TN: How have the Crees progressed this year in terms of governance? Tell me about the strides made here and your first meeting with the regional committee of Crees and Jamesiens.

GC: We understood when we signed the Governance Agreement in July 2012, and when the Quebec legislation creating the regional government was passed earlier this year, that there would be an enormous amount of work involved on our part to implement the agreement and to start making it work. We have a huge task ahead of us to successfully take on the new jurisdictions we will be exercising with respect to Category II lands, and

an equally large task to make the new regional government work.

I must say that our initial meetings with the Jamesiens, with whom we will be working in the new regional government, have been very positive, both at the level of the decision-making involving the mayors of the municipalities and our chiefs, but also at the administrative level where we have begun to know some of the personnel from the old MBJ who will now be working for the regional government. These initial meetings have, I believe, gotten us on the right track. I am looking forward to the first formal meetings of the new regional government, which will take place early in the New Year, and I am looking forward to seeing our new regional government begin to deal with issues that are of common concern to the region as a whole.

TN: How has the wealth of the Cree Nation prospered in 2013?

GC: During this past year we have seen the conclusion of important agreements with mining companies that will provide our communities with important sources of employment and income. We have concluded an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) in Mistissini with Stornoway, a company which will be developing the diamond potential in Mistissini's traditional territory. In Oujé-Bougoumou we signed the BallyHusky Agreement with BlackRock Metals. This company will be exploiting the iron-ore potential within the Oujé-Bougoumou traditional territory. Both of these agreements have significant potential for employment and contracting opportunities for our communities. At the same time, the Eleonore



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Project is being implemented on Wemindji's traditional territory and there are substantial benefits flowing to the community's people.

At the same time we are gearing up to implement the Governance Agreement, which will have implications for the staffing of our Cree Nation Governance. By taking on new powers and new jurisdictions on Category II lands and within the regional government we expect to see additional employment on that front.

Also, our New Relationship Agreement with Canada, in combination with the Paix des Braves funding, has resulted in very important capital projects taking place in all of our communities. This means that our communities are growing, needs for a wide range of facilities are being met and employment is available for our people. So, all in all, we are doing quite well on the employment and income side.

TN: And, how has the health of the Cree Nation prospered in 2013?

GC: I mentioned the development that is taking place within our communities, and regionally, which is creating new employment opportunities for our people. When we have these real opportunities that our people are taking advantage of, then that has implications for our overall health. With family income increasing, people can afford adequate houses, and with increased income peo-

"When people have jobs and when people have responsibilities they usually have a reason to get up in the morning and be productive. All the usual indicators of health show that our communities enjoy a higher quality of life than our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in the rest of the country."

ple's health generally improves. When people have jobs and when people have responsibilities they usually have a reason to get up in the morning and be productive. All the usual indicators of health show that our communities enjoy a higher quality of life than our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in the rest of the country.

This isn't to say that we don't have a lot of work to do to improve the health and well being of our communities. We clearly have a lot of work to do in the area of housing to address the substantial backlog we have in the communities, and we certainly have a lot of work to do in addressing the social problems in our communities. We are committed to doing this work while at the same time remembering to be grateful for the significant advances we have made in improving the living conditions in our communities.

TN: 2013 saw Eeyou Istchee's Nishiyuu Walkers make both national and international headlines. What kind of an impact do you think they had on their own Nation/Cree governance?

GC: I am extremely proud of our Nishiyuu Walkers. They achieved a goal that they set for themselves and they did it the Cree way – with determination, with focus, and holding dear the core values of our culture which are the values of sharing, caring and respect.

They showed us the strength of their character and they showed that the Aboriginal youth of this country can use

their energies in positive ways, for positive goals, and in very inspiring ways. They also sent out a loud and clear call for unity among all Aboriginal peoples at a time when we all came together to push for fundamental changes in the way that Aboriginal peoples are treated in Canada.

They also reminded us of the importance of protecting our lands and protecting our environment. It will be only through our direct involvement in what happens on our traditional territories that we can ensure that what happens there takes into account the preciousness of the land, the waters and the wildlife, and takes into account the future generations who also will need the land and its resources to sustain them.

And this really is what our governance initiatives have been all about and this is what the building of our Cree Nation has been about. We are reclaiming our lands and reclaiming our control over our territory, and demonstrating that our connection to the land, which has sustained us throughout our history, will continue to sustain us.

TN: Who is your all-time favourite hockey player?

GC: Guy Lafleur, number 10 of the Montreal Canadiens. As a young peewee hockey player I saw him play in Shawinigan. At that time he was playing for the Quebec Ramparts, a major Junior "A" team. The rest is history.



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Evaluation of the Cree Health Board's CE-CLE Program /

FINDING OUT HOW OUR PROGRAMS ARE WORKING FOR YOU

Has CE or CLE affected your family? Could it? The Cree Health Board's CE-CLE Carrier Screening program deals with two genetic diseases, Cree Encephalitis (CE) and Cree Leukoencephalopathy (CLE).

The program is offered to adults in the Awash clinics and to Secondary 3-5 students in high schools. Participants are given an information session about these diseases, and then ask the program nurse any questions they have. If they wish, they can also ask for a blood test to see if they carry the genes for these diseases.

The Eeyou Awaash Foundation, the Cree Health Board, and a research team from Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montreal, are partnering to evaluate this program to learn how well it is working for you and discover what improvements need to be made so that it serves you better.

The evaluation survey will ask people taking part in the program

- // How much they have learned about CE and CLE through the program;
- // How they feel about the program;
- // Whether their family has had any experience with CE-CLE.

People who participate in the evaluation will be asked to fill out three questionnaires: one before a session with the nurse, one after, and the third 6-12 months later. The questionnaires will be sent to the researchers, who will put them together with the survey responses from other participants.

The program evaluation may also provide information that will help other Aboriginal groups who wish to set up similar programs.

If you are interested in participating in the evaluation survey or have any questions, you can contact

Ms Valérie Gosselin,
Nurse for the CBHSSJB Program
Tel: 819-855-5609
Email: Valerie.gosselin@ssss.gouv.qc.ca



Evaluation of the Cree Health Board's CE-CLE School-Based Program will happen at:

Wabannutao Eeyou School in Eastmain. January 21-24
Badabin Eeyou School in Whapmagoostui. January 29-31



"Guy Lafleur, number 10 of the Montreal Canadiens. As a young peewee hockey player I saw him play in Shawinigan. At that time he was playing for the Quebec Ramparts, a major Junior "A" team. The rest is history."

TN: What do you hope to accomplish in 2014?

GC: We will, for the foreseeable future, continue in the direction we have been going for several years. With the overall objective of continuing to build the Cree Nation, we will place a lot of emphasis this coming year on the implementation of our Governance Agreement. This is such an important part of our future that we cannot spare any effort to make sure that our first steps are done thoroughly and properly so that we get started in the right direction.

We also have unfinished business with Canada. We still need to conclude the governance agreement related to the Cree/Canada New Relationship Agreement. We hope that in 2014 we will be able to remove the current obstacles that are preventing our negotiating team to reach an agreement.

I have said many times that it will be important, in order to take full advantage of the opportunities before us, that we make as a priority the engagement of our youth. We will be building on the Capacity-Building Roundtable, which was held last March, by taking the same message to all our communities. We will be speaking directly to our youth and other community members about the importance of preparing the next generation to carry the torch and take the Cree Nation to the next level.

There are a number of other issues we will be focusing on to ensure protection of our Cree rights, including the resolution of the Baril/Moses Agreement that Quebec has been violating. This agreement has to do with the extension of Cree rights in the area of forestry over the height of land in the southern part of the Mistissini territory. We have prepared court proceedings to address this issue, yet we will continue to make overtures to Quebec to attempt to resolve this matter without having to go to court.

We will also continue to be supportive of the Washaw Sibi Eeyou in their effort to establish a new Cree community where they will be able to protect their Cree language and culture, and also, where they will be able to bring their standard of living to the same level as the nine Cree communities. The community is very close to selecting a site for the new village, and once this is done, we will begin serious discussions with Quebec to set aside land for the new village. As we have said many times, while we are making great progress in our communities, we will leave no one behind.

I would also like to mention that we have begun a process to work closely with MoCreebec to address their long-standing claims with respect to benefits under the JBNQA. We welcome this initiative on the part of the MoCreebec leadership and we look forward to positive developments in the coming year.

The Quebec government has announced its intention to support northern development, replacing the theme of Plan Nord with that of Le Nord Pour Tous (The North for All). Our Nation will continue to participate in the Aboriginal Partners and Partners table and remind Quebec of our principles and conditions.

TN: Can you tell us about the new provincial mining policy and what impacts it might have on the Cree, particularly when it comes to treaty rights?

GC: We have made it clear that when it comes to mining activities within Eeyou Istchee we will continue to be guided by the various agreements we have in place, including the JBNQA, the Paix des Braves and our new Governance Agreement. We will also be guided by our own Cree Mining Policy, which requires mining companies to engage with us at every critical phase in the development of a mining project. This will not change. We will continue to insist that mining companies wishing to operate within Eeyou Istchee respect our requirements for pre-development agreements, and the impact and benefits agreements, which provide important benefits for affected hunters, their families and our communities.

TN: Is there anything you would like to add?

GC: Although we have made great strides in gaining recognition of our Cree rights and in improving the standard of living for our people, there is still so much to do to maintain that momentum. We can never become complacent or take for granted what we have achieved over the last 40 years. My hope is that, as a people, as communities, and as families, we remain engaged and involved in the life of our communities at every level. We all have important work to do in encouraging and supporting our youth to use their energies in positive ways and for the benefit of our communities and our Nation. We still have work to do to build a healthy and prosperous Cree Nation and we need everyone's hands, hearts and minds. We still have a vision to fulfill.

Hydlo and **FRIENDS** Online



Getting around in winter

E nânâkachihâkanuwit maskumî
aniteh Waskaganish

A new video at www.hydloandfriends.com



When Rupert Bay is iced over, Waskaganish residents use it to go fishing and hunting. To understand the objective of ice monitoring, listen to Ryan Erless, Monitoring Committee representative, Gordon Weistche, worker, and Tristan Aubel, consultant.



To watch the video, visit
www.hydloandfriends.com

Each month, a new video will be added to www.hydloandfriends.com. To learn more, listen to the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke MacLeod and Luc Duquette, discuss the environmental follow-up activities related to the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project, as well as the concerns of land users with regard to Hydro-Québec's facilities and activities.

Next show:
Wednesday, January 23,
at 8:00 a.m.



Blending the traditional with the modern

Native chef Andrew George on his new cookbook

by Jonah Aspler

When thinking of Aboriginal food, one does not usually picture Venison Fettuccini or Apple Berry Crisp, but Chef Andrew George Jr. creates these fusion recipes with panache. In his new book, *Modern Native Feasts*, George mixes traditional Aboriginal ingredients with French and Italian recipes to devise original cuisine that breaks the barrier between the customary and the modern.

Originally taught to cook by his mother as a boy in Smithers, BC, George began cooking professionally in high school. "I always had a curiosity about food," said George about why he found interest in the culinary arts. At the age of 18, George entered the Vancouver Vocational Institute for culinary training and began his education in conventional Western cooking.

George's upbringing was filled with hunting and gathering, leading to his belief in using ingredients in their natural state to cook from scratch. "My philosophy of cooking is local, fresh, natural, organic." This is why there are no processed foods used in any of the recipes in *Modern Native Feasts*.

Obesity among First Nations children is a growing problem. Statistics Canada reports that over 36% of Aboriginal children are considered obese. George fights this health crisis

by mentoring for a program called Super Chefs, which helps kids to learn how to eat well and live a healthy lifestyle. They instituted cooking programs in schools in Surrey, BC, and run summer camps to teach kids aged eight to 12 how to cook in a healthy way.

The program specifically addresses childhood obesity and the diseases that go with it, such as diabetes and heart disease. "The kids have a lot of fun eating fresh products and really enjoy it, and in some cases it changes their lives," said George.

George wants to spread his knowledge and experience to Aboriginal youth who are about to join the workforce. He recently helped create a program called Discovery in Vancouver, which provides basic instruction in the culinary arts. "They're getting a good strong foundation through education," said George over the phone from Vancouver.

George has travelled the world to demonstrate Native cooking techniques. He was part of the first all-Native team at the World Culinary Olympics in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1992. He was head chef at the Four Host First Nations pavilion during the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, and one of 25 international chefs to participate in an event called Culinary

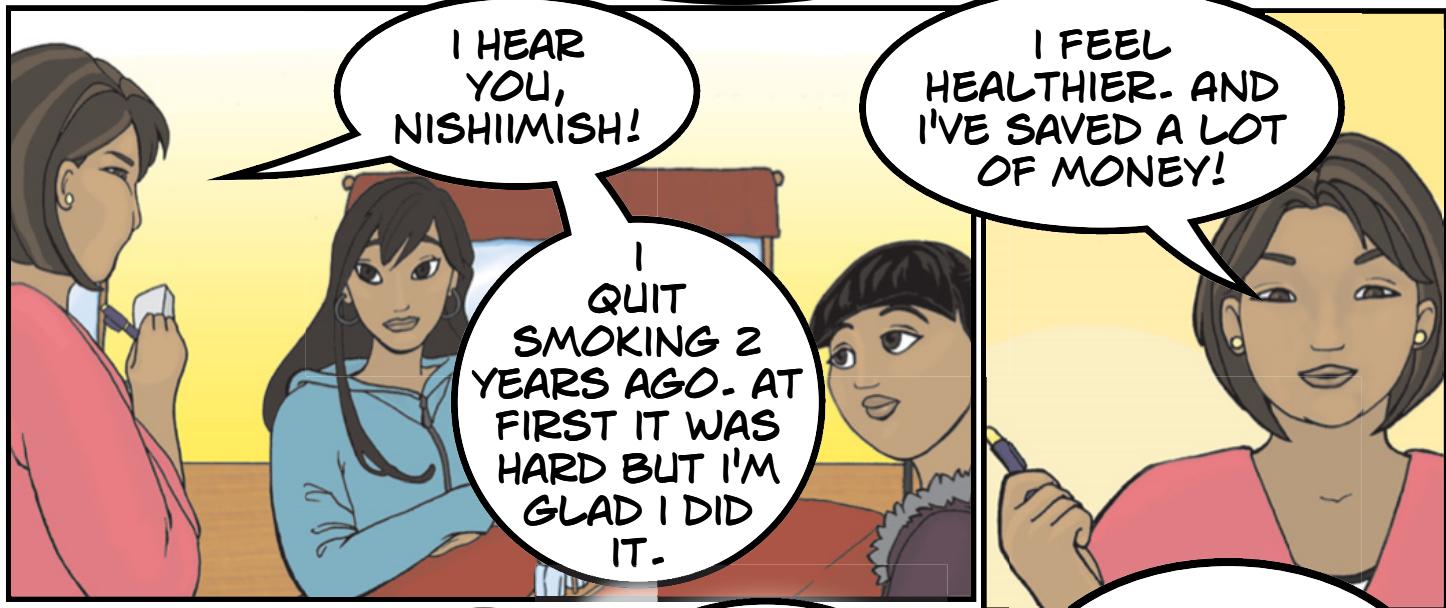
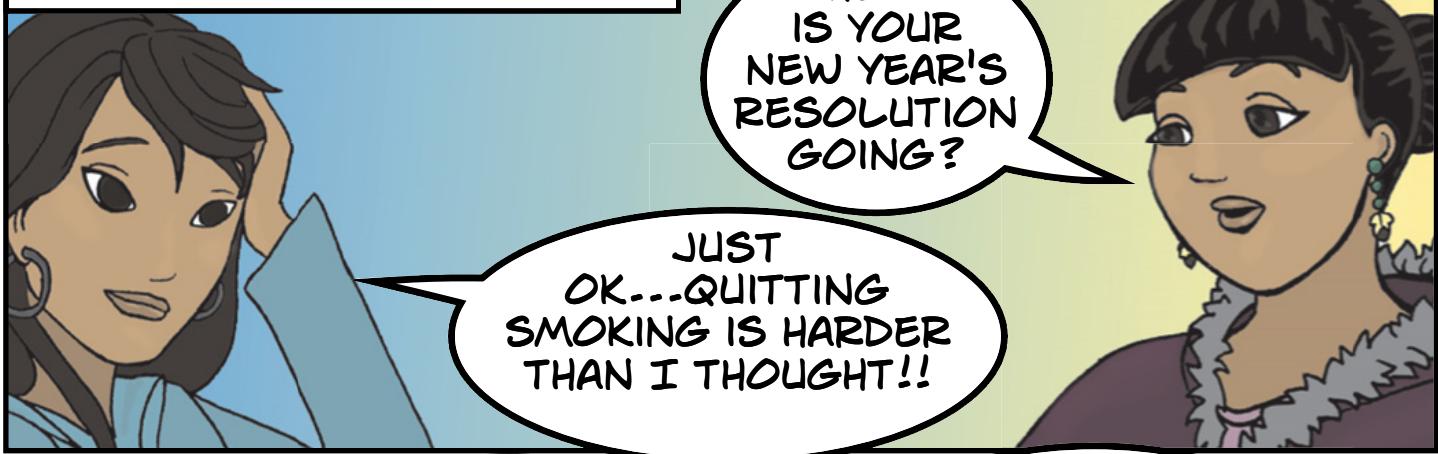
Diplomacy: Promoting Cultural Understanding Through Food, put on by the US State Department in 2012.

All of these experiences have made George an international ambassador for the Aboriginal community. "It's an honour, speaking on behalf of my people," he said. But more than just showing the world what Canadian Natives have to offer, George wants to show the younger generation. "That's what I love promoting, not only cooking, but the lifestyle of a cook and the education to get there, that's critical, especially in the Aboriginal community."

Modern Native Feasts follows George's philosophy of education in its divine simplicity. From the chef's favourite Pan-Fried Buffalo Rib-Eye Steaks with Blackberry Au Jus to Curried Dandelion Greens with Golden Onions and Cashews, none of the recipes in the book are too difficult for someone with basic cooking skills.

The book includes everything from breakfasts to stocks to salads to entrees to desserts and everything in between. And for hard-to-find ingredients, such as bison, there are substitutes in the different recipes. *Modern Native Feasts* is a great cookbook for anyone interested in modern Aboriginal cooking, or just good food.

ONE DAY AT THE RESTAURANT...



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Batshaw bans Cree?

Chisasibi mother worried for son in youth detention

by Jesse Staniforth

A Cree mother says Batshaw youth protection will not allow her own son to speak in their mother tongue, even when he's speaking to her. She also says the agency has confiscated culturally significant possessions.

Jennifer (not her real name: we can't name her due to laws against identifying youths in detention) says her son told her he was not allowed to speak Cree on the phone to her, and his drum and traditional medicines were taken away.

Her son, who was involved in a physical altercation with a worker at a treatment program in Gaspé, was moved in October to a non-locked unit at Batshaw Youth and Family Centres in Prévost, 45 minutes north of Montreal.

Jennifer says that in the most recent court hearing about her son, the court argued that the boy had "a chronic dependency on drugs." She says his drug use has been nothing of the sort, and that though he has experimented with drugs and has been sent to treatment, the stigma of labelling him "chronically dependent" will be as damaging to his development as actual drug use.

More troubling has been her son's report that he is not allowed to speak Cree on the phone.

"My son said, 'Before I call you or someone else, they say you can't speak Cree.' The calls are monitored. But [in regular life] I speak to him in Cree all the time!" She says this rule prevents her from communicating with her son in the manner that she is most comfortable talking with him.

Meanwhile, because other kids in detention were stealing her son's sweetgrass and sage thinking they could smoke it, Jennifer says workers

took the medicines away and locked them up.

"They said 'We have his herbs. We had to lock them up. We took his drum also.' I know she doesn't know the culture. Those are his medicines, and he treats them with very high respect."

When workers take away his possessions – particularly sacred ones –

Meanwhile, because other kids in detention were stealing her son's sweetgrass and sage thinking they could smoke it, Jennifer says workers took the medicines away and locked them up.

"The Elders Council ruled out that he belongs in his culture," she said. "I received another letter from the Justice Department about bush healing: they're waiting for [my son] and me to come north to start on that. But I don't know what the hell's going on with youth protection. Since November 21, the file has been transferred – I called today and [a worker at



Youth Protection] said, 'I don't even know who has the file.'"

Jennifer says she has been in Prévost since October 28, and had to spend her Christmas budget on hotel rooms and taxis to and from Batshaw. She has received no financial support to assist her in helping or being with her son. "This is crazy – I wouldn't wish this on any other parent," she said.

Batshaw Communications and Public Relations Manager Claire Roy said she is shocked to hear these allegations.

"Stories of a child not being allowed to speak on the phone in Cree

– this is all completely contrary to all we believe in,” she said. “We’re very surprised.”

Though she said she couldn’t speak of specific cases, Roy underlined that she had heard no such complaints about children held within the facility.

“We have a local commissioner if a child or youth has a problem,” she added. “There’s a way of saying if he’s not satisfied. It’s really the first time we heard about that.”

Roy stressed that she had never before heard of a First Nations child having culturally important items taken away from him at Batshaw.

“The two people I talked to literally fell out of their chairs. To have traditional cultural things taken away – that’s really completely contrary to all we believe in here. I talked to the director of services for older adolescents. She said, ‘Come on, Claire, it’s not possible.’ She called up to the campus and no one was aware of that. At this point I’m very puzzled, and I’m not the only one.”

Roy added that she is not suggesting that Jennifer or her son are lying, but that the behaviour they describe is not in keeping with the organization’s poli-

court date to determine what would happen to him next.

“The file should have been transferred already,” Jennifer said. “I had

Roy stressed that she had never before heard of a First Nations child having culturally important items taken away from him at Batshaw.

cies. The purpose that unites Batshaw workers, she said, is working with the children, in order to reunite them with their families as soon as possible.

“The main thing is for this youth to be able to express himself and to be respected,” Roy said. “If there’s a problem, definitely it will be solved.”

Meanwhile, Jennifer and her son were waiting on a mid-December

confirmation the file was transferred through Montérégie, but I’ve never heard anything from my community. I’ve spent all my Christmas money to be here. Even if I try to go home, I’ll have to hitchhike home, because my son isn’t under Youth Protection through Cree patient services. They haven’t paid anything.”

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Grievous Angels put politics to music

MP Charlie Angus combines Native advocacy and punk rock roots

by Amy German

Most people know Charlie Angus as the NDP MP for Timmins-James Bay, an energetic and enthusiastic thorn in the side of Stephen Harper's Conservative government. Many First Nations people will also know him as an ally and unflagging advocate of Native issues in Canada. Given all that it's easy to forget that Angus was once a popular punk-rock musician.

Back in the 1980s, Angus was often on air with stations like MuchMusic and CHUM-FM as a member of the punk-rock band l'Etranger, which also featured another future politician: NDP MP Andrew Cash.

After leaving l'Etranger, Angus began working with the homeless in Toronto. Musically, he went on to form the Grievous Angels, an alt-country band that has stayed with him for the last quarter of a century. The group has just released an album, *The Great Divide*.

While Angus put his musical career on the shelf to pursue politics, the politics brought him back to music. Some issues could only be discussed through song.

"This whole album actually began with the writing of *Diamonds in the Snow* (for the children of Attawapiskat), partly because I realized that words are so devalued in political life," Angus told *the Nation*. "There is such an ugly atmosphere in this age of the message box, the talking point and the attack lines."

His frustration with the political cynicism of the Harper government pushed him over the edge. "One night I just couldn't get my head around a government that was so obstinate and cold-blooded towards small children and so I sat down and wrote *Diamonds in the Snow*. It seemed the simplest way of explaining what was otherwise



too hard or difficult or toxic to say," said Angus.

From there the song became the anthem to the Shannen's Dream, a child-led movement for First Nation's education rights. The name honours the late Cree youth leader Shannen Koostachin.

Angus was inspired by the Irish and Scottish folk songs he absorbed as a child. He hopes his new songs will share a history that might not otherwise be told.

Angus has also released a video for the track *Four Horses* in conjunction with James Daschuk's new book, *Clearing the Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and the Loss of Aboriginal Life*. The book was not only the inspiration for the song, but it prompted Angus to ensure that this history be known by all Canadians.

Both book and song address a long-forgotten page in Canadian history, when Prime Minister John A. Macdonald used starvation to break the independence of the western Cree and Assiniboine.

"I talk about what happened and the brutality of it in a song, and exposed the devastating impact those policies had on First Nations people.

"I could speak about it in the House (of Commons), but it would just be denounced by the talking points and I knew that there is a more profound issue here," said Angus.

As Angus has such a large Aboriginal youth following on his two Facebook pages, his hope is that this tune can teach this shameful part of history to the people whose ancestors it happened to as well as non-Native Canadians. He feels everyone needs to know and understand this part of history and its far-reaching impact on the generations.

Angus said *The Great Divide* includes songs about other issues that he feels strongly about such as the Afghan war, gangs and life on the road.

While he may sing about politics, Angus did insist that he is not singing to Parliament's other parties.

"I am not interested in singing to those punters. I don't sing to politicians and I don't sing to politicians' wives. I am not interested.

"I play for people who want to hear music. For me, music is something that is about building community and so I like to build community," said Angus.

The Great Divide is available on iTunes.

SIDE BY SIDE

Celebrating the highlights
and retirement of two
educational pioneers

by Eleanor Cowan



Teacher Georgina Forward



Teacher Judy Campey Macleod

In August 1979, 24-year-old college graduate Judy Campey boarded a northbound First Air flight from Quebec City. In this pre-Air Creebec era, taxi driver Sam Gunner met her at the Chibougamau airport. He drove her – and the local mail – through forests that finally opened up to a charming village of colourful log houses.

Notwithstanding her enchantment with picturesque Mistissini, Campey was relieved that her initial teacher lodgings in the “white units” were equipped with both electricity and indoor plumbing. Soon after, Campey met Georgina Forward, a fellow teacher. She invited Campey to her trailer to meet her husband, Stephen, and her toddlers, BettyAnne and Patrick. So began the 37 years of close collaboration that helped put Voyageur Memorial School on the map for high literacy scores, reading development programs and teaching excellence.

“As a youth, I’d planned to become a nurse,” laughed Forward. “And I a physiotherapist,” said Campey. Both women reminisced for the Nation at the Macleod homestead kitchen table, each sharing memories of four decades of friendship. In

1986, Campey’s marriage to Georgina’s brother, Don Macleod, changed their status. Now they were family, their homes by the lake only moments apart.

“We worked together, and helped each other,” said Forward. “For example, with 30 students to a class, when there was a behaviour problem, I’d send my little culprit off to Judy’s room with a note that, unbeknownst to him, read, ‘Please keep him while I teach my lesson’. Judy would send one to me too. Many of the parents hunted in the bush for most of the year and our students missed them terribly, so our after-school activities meant all the more to our students. We knew we were replacement moms for the children whose mothers worked away from home.”

“City dwellers might be hard-pressed to imagine what end-of-year visits to Quebec City, Montreal, Saint-Félicien and Tadoussac could mean to our students – but we knew,” said Campey. “We saw the joy on their faces as 50 students boarded a charter bus to explore the world. This happiness was worth every last ounce of energy we all gave.”

“Every year Georgina would return from summer holiday with a handful of travel brochures. Then one coffee break she’d fan them out before us on the staff room table and say, ‘I was thinking....’ and soon, well before a charter bus pulled into Mistissini, our next trip was in motion. There’s nothing like a trip away from home together to convince you how much you belong to one big family. We all felt that closeness.”

Back then, every activity required more time than it does now, added Forward. “To make photocopies, there was a tray, gelatinous purple liquid to mix with a precise amount of water, and delicate handling to reproduce a single page. Most days we finished work around 6 pm and then off we went to cook supper for our growing families, often with students in tow.”

Forward and Campey team-taught 60 children in a split-grade classroom. Opening wall dividers to form one large space, they streamlined their strategic teaching methodology of routine, music, storytelling – and it had to be fun. “We’d read first thing in the morning, which motivated our students to be on time, else they’d miss



Staff Friends of Judy and Georgina

that day's exciting instalment," said Campey, recalling that at that time, most of her students spoke more Cree than English.

"We chose books without pictures, so our students would use their own imaginations," added Forward. "To one, the main character was Aboriginal and tall, to another, a red-haired Viking. Whatever appeared in their mind's eye was perfect."

Each woman enthusiastically celebrates the other: "Judy was an especially creative teacher," said Forward. "She loved languages and books. Before the school owned a photocopier, Judy hand-made her own design of interactive flipbooks. She taught her students how to construct them, decorate them and hand sew the pages between two covers cut from Tide boxes. The result was pride of accomplishment – and, after that considerable effort, proud owners were less likely to lose or misplace their copybooks."

If the first page featured the letter "A" their students found pictures that began with that letter, cut them out with a scissors and glued them into their own flipbook. This may sound simple, but there are many fine-motor



Judy and Georgina's early mentors, Trifona and Modesta Mangoang

steps that allow for a paced process of beginning, middle and end that today's youngsters, who receive photocopies, may miss.

"Georgina loved to teach math and science," said Campey. "And she was exceptionally well-organized, a place for everything and everything in its place. One day when we'd exchanged classrooms for an hour, an inspector happened to come by. After he left, he commended me on my beautifully arranged classroom. He later suggested that Georgina might want to tidy up a bit. We had a big laugh about that!"

"Unlike teachers who'd completed their teaching qualifications in the city," added Campey, "Georgina earned her Bachelor of Education through intense summer teaching courses, away from her family and without an annual holiday for 10 years. It's important to acknowledge that kind of determination."

The two friends also delight in recalling a Student Play Day they initiated. The whole community participated in setting up a real fairground featuring food and game booths, draws for bicycles, races, sports, mini-golf and even a dunk tank. "Remember our Patrick MacDonald, a great teacher who got dunked whenever a student won a round?" asked Forward.

Campey did not become a physiotherapist as she'd planned. She stretched minds and imaginations instead. Likewise, Forward's childhood wish to nurse her ill father did not happen. Instead she prescribed literacy, a taste for math and a curiosity for science for the hundreds of children in her care over the years. Indeed, Forward cared for the whole school as vice principal and, for her final three years of service, as facilitator of the literacy program, Success For All.

stornoway DIAMOND CORPORATION

DIAMOND CORPORATION

STORNOWAY would like to extend its sincere thanks to all contractors who were involved in the successful construction of the Renard Mining Road in 2013. These works have demonstrated the expertise of regional contractors and there is no doubt that their productivity was crucial in enabling Stornoway to deliver ahead of schedule and below the planned budget. We are also very proud of all the synergy that has developed between the Crees and the Jamesians during this intense period of work. THANKS !

Renard Mining Road construction - South part (km 143 to 230) and Airstrip construction:

ESKAN Consortium

- Dennis Coon-Come, Mistissini
 - Neeposh Enterprise, Mistissini
 - Moose-Naan (Loiselle), Mistissini
 - S&R Mattawashish, Mistissini
 - Grizzly Excavations, Mistissini
 - Otish Construction, Mistissini
 - Eenatuk Forestry Corp, Mistissini
 - R.J. Coon, Mistissini
 - Felco, Saint-Félicien
 - Makaahiiakan, Mistissini
 - Gérald.Ouellet, Chibougamau
 - M.Y. Surveying Inc. Mistissini

- Les Entreprises Alain Maltais, Chibougamau
- ESKAN-Sodexo, Mistissini

Renard Mining Road construction – North part (km 230 to 240) and Airstrip construction:

- Swallow-Fournier, Mistissini

- ## Catering - Lagopède Camp :

- Kiskinch

- ## Bridges :

• Nordic Structure Books (Ch)

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Happy New Year, and let's hope that it is going to be a really good 2014

by Xavier Kataquapit

A lot of things happened this year, some were good and some less than fantastic. One of the good things is that *the Nation* celebrated its 20th anniversary.

Staying alive for 20 years in the publication business here in Canada is no easy feat. Newspapers and magazines come and go. In the last 20 years, the publication business has been hugely impacted by the growth of online media. Thankfully, *the Nation* has managed to adapt and evolve with the times. In addition to putting out a great magazine, the management and staff are also online with a dynamic, recently redesigned website.

First Nation magazines and newspapers across the country are very important to the Aboriginal population. These are the only publications that we can rely on to give First Nation people a voice in a reality where we are surrounded by media produced by the very rich and powerful. One of the reasons I got involved in media – indeed, the rational for the development of most of Aboriginal media – has to do with telling our own stories. Too often, mainstream media presents a negative image of First Nation people, if they're not simply ignoring us. Thanks to publications like *the Nation*, we are able to have a voice and we can talk about issues that are important to us. *The Nation* also makes

us feel proud about having something that is our own and that is mainly staffed by First Nation professionals.

When I started writing, one of the first publications to print my column was *the Nation*. At the time, I was really surprised that one of the editors, Neil Diamond, wanted my "Under The Northern Sky" column. I have to admit that part of the surprise had to do with the fact that I was even talking to somebody by the name of Neil Diamond, as I had always connected that name to a lot of pop tunes from the 1960s and 1970s made famous by a certain singer of the same name.

Thanks to Neil Diamond and *the Nation*, I got the opportunity to reach many people with my words. It was always a pleasure to work with Neil and the staff over the years. I was also happy to see him pursue his other career as a filmmaker. He has enjoyed much success with what has become one of my favourite documentaries *Reel Injun*.

From start to finish, *the Nation* is always a good read. Only a Native person could appreciate all of the interesting advertisements found in the classified section. I really enjoyed working with the wonderful people at *the Nation* over the past decade and more. Hats off to the visionary people who founded *the Nation*, including Catherine Bainbridge, Will Nicholls, Linda Ludwick and Ernie



Loyal *Nation* reader "Fudge" sitting on a 20 year collection of the fine rag

Webb. I have always appreciated the relationship and rapport I have had with the staff. These days, I am in touch with Will Nicholls who has a great sense of humour and writes so well. I always look for his editorial when I pick up my *Nation*. I also enjoy the regular column by Sonny Orr, which always has a good message in his well-crafted words.

Over the years I have been the recipient of writing awards from the Quebec Community Newspaper Association (QCNA). I have the *Nation* to thank for that.

I look forward to writing for many more years for *the Nation* and reading news from an Aboriginal perspective from this magazine. Chi-Meegwetch Do-Deh-Mak (Thanks very much, my friends). Long live *the Nation*!

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings in Mistissini: Alcoholics Anonymous, Tuesday's Hope Meeting, are at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidodow Building Amisk Street. **Alanon Meetings** are on Tuesdays as well at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidodow Building Amisk Street. **Alateen Meetings** are on Mondays at 3:30PM at the Reception Centre 282 Main Street. These meetings are all open meetings.

TD Scholarships for Community Leadership - Apply today! Applications available at Your high school or CEGEP (in Quebec) Online at www.td.com/scholarship or Call 1-800-308-8306 TTY (Text telephone) 1-800-361-1180

Cultural Manual for Foster and Adoptive parents of Aboriginal Children, launched at the last Gathering of the NETWORK on October 3... CHECK IT OUT! www.reseaumtl-network.com/eng/Portals/5/Cultural%20Manual.pdf

The Aviva Community Fund is Canada's longest running online community competition. With over \$2.5 million dollars given away to date, the Aviva Community Fund is making a difference in communities across the country. Submit your idea for positive change and have a chance at sharing in this year's \$1 million Aviva Community Fund.

For more info go to <http://www.avivacomunityfund.org/>

Kid's Help Phone Line:

1-800-668-6868

(www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085

(www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared.

514-843-4333

(www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626

(www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626

(www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:

1-800-363-9010

(www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432

(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688 (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec:

1-866-277-3553

(www.suicide-quebec.net)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.



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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)

Arctic Fibre Inc.'s Submarine Cable System Project

Request for Crees and Cree Entities to send in 'Written Comments' to the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board

The Crees will take part in the review of this project by participating in the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board review of it. This is being done in the interest of accomplishing the review in the most economical, thorough and convenient way. It is also necessary to do it in this manner because the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission and the EMR Impact Review Board are not yet set up to begin their work of planning and review. This coordinated approach is in accordance with the Agreement Relating to the Cree/Inuit Offshore Overlapping Interests Area, signed in 2003 by the Crees and Makivik, which agreement can to be found in the terms of the Eeyou Marine Region Treaty, pages 149 to 166: <http://www.aadncaandc.gc.ca/eng/1320437343375/1320437512985>

This notice can also be seen along with some more information on the project at the Grand Council of the Crees web site: <http://gcc.ca/newsarticle.php?id=348>

Interested individuals, Cree, Inuit and non-Cree, the concerned communities, including Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui, the Inuit communities, as well as Cree and Inuit authorities are welcome to provide their comments on the proposed project.

**We ask that submissions be sent to the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board
<http://www.nmrirb.ca/> before January 20th at the latest.**

Please note that all of Arctic Fibre Submarine Cable System project information is on the Nunavut Impact Review Board's ftp site at: <http://goo.gl/vwmZor>

All comments and documents received by NIRB pertaining to the Arctic Fibre project proposal can be obtained from Nunavut Impact Review Board's ftp site at: <http://goo.gl/m1pjG>

Arctic Fibre's website can be viewed at: www.arcticfibre.com where you will find Questions and Answers on a wide range of issues of interest. Check out the FAQs section of the website. This would answer most questions people might have.

For further information contact Brian Craik - Office: 613 761 1655 Cell: 613 724 1097